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~~CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM  
RELEASE IN FULL 1995~~

26 JUL 1962

*Roswell Gilpatrick*

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Secretary of Defense

SUBJECT : Naval Radio Research Station (NRRO),  
Sugar Grove, West Virginia

REFERENCES : (a) Memo from Deputy Secretary of Defense,  
to Director of Central Intelligence,  
6 July 1962  
(b) Memo for Assistant Director for Defense,  
R&E, from Deputy Director/Research,  
CIA, 10 July 1962

1. Reference (a) requested us to review the NRRO situation and to advise and make recommendations to the Director for Defense, R&E, concerning our views on the extent to which the work already accomplished could be modified, adapted, or utilized to contribute to the intelligence program. Reference (b) stated our position regarding the usefulness for intelligence information of a completed NRRO.

2. As stated in reference (b), the type of information that could be provided by the NRRO could probably be obtained more readily and with greater consistency by other intelligence collection techniques which would have an earlier availability date. This position is still valid under the conditions of a modified or adapted NRRO Big Dish. Therefore, in my judgement, the NRRO's relatively

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*ER*  
*D. M.*  
*Defer*  
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**SUBJECT: Naval Radio Research Station (NRRO),  
Sugar Grove, West Virginia**

poor competitive position for the collection of intelligence information vis-a-vis other collective systems would not warrant the allocation of funds for modifying the original NRRO construction plans for the collection of intelligence information.

WHEGned/ JOHN A. McCONE

**JOHN A. McCONE**  
Director

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**CONCURRENCE:**

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[REDACTED]  
Acting Assistant Director, Scientific Intelligence

Date

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10 July 1962

**MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director for Defense  
Research and Engineering  
(Intelligence and Reconnaissance)**

**SUBJECT: CIA Interest in Naval Radio Research  
Observatory (NRRO)**

1. This Agency has recently evaluated the NRRO for its usefulness in satisfying critical National Intelligence requirements. If the designed criteria are satisfied in the completed installation, it would provide useful intelligence information on Soviet electronic emitters. However, this same type of information can probably be obtained more readily and with greater consistency by other intelligence collection techniques which would have an earlier availability date. The primary advantage that the NRRO would have would be its immunity from political involvement.

2. Since this installation could have some potential contribution to U.S. intelligence, it would seem appropriate for the Intelligence Community to consider funding some of the operational costs when and if the installation is completed. However, its relatively poor competitive position vis-a-vis other collection systems would not warrant the allocation of significant intelligence funds for the construction of the installation.

Signed *Herbert Scoville, Jr.*

**HERBERT SCOVILLE, Jr.  
Deputy Director  
(Research)**

DDR/HScoville:mh (10 Jul 62)  
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